

App. No. 10/658,596
Amendment Dated: March 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 10, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. The Office Action rejected Claims 1-13 and 15-18. The Office Action objected to Claim 14. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the following arguments. Claims 1, 9 and 14 have been amended.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the specification and requested that phrases which can be implied, such as "the invention relates to" be avoided. In response, the specification has been amended to remove these references. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to Claims 1, 9, and 14 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(a) because of informalities. In response, Claims 1, 9, and 14 have been amended to correct the informalities.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takuma (U.S. Patent 4,810,948). The Applicants respectfully disagree. The circuit disclosed by Takuma is a "constant-voltage regulated power supply circuit." (Col. 1, lines 50-51). While Takuma discloses that the "output voltage can be made variable in the range of 1.5V +- 200mV" and that "it is possible to set an output level to 10V by modifying the reference voltage" (col. 2, lines 4-8) this is not the same as recited within Applicants' claims. Takuma does not disclose "a mode circuit having an input coupled to a control signal and an output configured to generate a mode signal relating to an open mode and a linear mode associated with the regulation circuit." as recited in Claim 1. Takuma uses a multiplexer that is actuated from an address from a data register and does not "compare the mode signal and the signal relating to the voltage" as recited in Claim 1. As discussed within Takuma, the only way to have a high range

App. No. 10/658,596
Amendment Dated: March 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 10, 2004

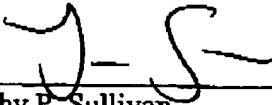
of output is to change the reference voltage. Similarly, Takuma does not disclose "a switch circuit coupling an output of the comparator to a linear mode control node when the circuit is operating in the linear mode and to an open mode control node when the circuit is operating in the open mode." For clarification purposes, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the recitation "wherein the signal relating to the voltage is used to indicate when the regulation circuit is in a saturation overload condition." It is clear that Takuma does not disclose this recitation. Independent Claim 9 has been similarly amended.

It is submitted that independent Claims 15 and 17 are allowable as presented. As discussed above, Takuma does not disclose "an open mode" and a "linear mode" as recited in Claims 15 and 17. Takuma does not differentiate between modes.

As Claims 2-8, 10-14, and 16 and 18 depend from valid base claims, it is submitted, that in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Timothy P. Sullivan
Registration No. 51,894
Direct Dial: 206.342.6254

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200

